(d) if so, the reasons therefor keeping in view the long coast line of the country; and

(e) what future plans Government are formulating for development of Navy ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Budgetary allocations to the Indian Navy are decided after taking into consideration all relevant factors, including the geo-political scenario and the existing emerging threat perceptions.

Benefits for Soldiers of Second World War

2013. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any financial benefits or welfare schemes for the soldiers who took part in the Second World War but were demobilised after the end of the war;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) No pension or any other financial benefits are available to soldiers who took part in the Second World War because they had not put in the required number of years of qualifying service. They were paid Service Gratuity at the time of their demobilisation. Since they are not pensioners, they are not entitled to medical facilities provided by Government to ex-servicemen.. However, since they have been given the status of ex-servicemen, they can avail Canteen facilities and the benefits of all schemes to provide self-employment opportunities to ex-Servicemen, if eligible. These schemes include Self-Employment for ex-Servicemen-II (SEMFEX-II) Scheme to encourage ex-Servicemen to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas; Self-Employment for ex-Servicemen-III (SEMFEX-III) Scheme to provide employment through promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries; transportation agencies for coal and petroleum products; allotment of Unit Trust of India agencies etc.. The States are also extending certain benefits like reservation of house sites/flats for ex-Servicemen. They are also entitled to avail of old-age benefits in States which implement old-age relief schemes. Certain States have also introduced specific old age relief schemes for ex-Servicemen. They are also considered for financial assistance from Welfare Funds available in the Services Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

मंत्रियों द्वारा भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों का इस्तेमाल

2014. **डा. बापू कालदाते** : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान मंत्रियों द्वारा भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों के इस्तेमाल के संबंध में तारीख-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या भारतीय वायुसेना के विमानों के इस्तेमाल के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा कोई दिशा निर्देश तैयार किये गये हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है,

(घ) क्या सरकार का भारतीय वायुसेना के विमान के समुचित इस्तेमाल को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इन दिशा-निर्देशों में संशोधन करने का विचार है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) से (च) सरकार ने भारतीय वायुसेना के वायुयानों का इस्तेमाल किए जाने के संबंध में मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त जारी किए हुए हैं । भारतीय वायुसेना ने राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री के इस्तेमाल के लिए कुछ वायुयान निर्धारित किए हुए हैं । रक्षा मंत्री, रक्षा राज्य मंत्री और अन्य मंत्री भी अत्यावश्यक यात्राओं के लिए इन वायुयानों का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं । भारतीय वायुसेना के वायुयान में रक्षा मंत्री तथा रक्षा राज्य मंत्री के अलावा केन्द्रीय मंत्री भी

यात्रा कर सकते हैं, किन्तु इसके लिए उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री से स्वीकृति लेनी होती है। भारतीय वायुसेना के वायुयानों का इस्तेमाल करना बहुत अधिक प्रतिबंधित है। भारतीय वायुसेना के वायुयानों में मंत्रियों द्वारा की गई यात्राओं के ब्यौरे प्रकट करना लोक हित में नहीं होगा। मौजूदा मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों में फिलहाल कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है।

Safety measures in the Armament Project at ARDE, Pune

2015. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :

SHRI MD. SALIM :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some scientists of the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, were killed and others injured in an explosion while testing an armament project at the ARDE range;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have conducted an inquiry into the blast;

(d) if so, what are the details of the inquiry;

(e) what precautionary measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future, and

(f) what is the amount of compensation paid to the heirs of the persons killed and to those who have been injured ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two scientists lost their lives and three other personnel were injured while conducting experimental firing trials on 17 Sep. 92. The injured persons were provided medical assistance at a Hospital and were discharged after necessary treatment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The enquiry report has brought out that safety precautions laid down for such experimental firing had been observed and the probable cause of the accident was premature functioning of the detonator.

(e) All safety aspects of the experimental firings of explosive related stores have been reviewed with a view to enforce stringent safety measures to avoid recurrence of such accidents.

(f) Rs. 22000/- each have been paid to the next of kin of the deceased from the voluntary contribution and non-public funds. Employment on compassionate grounds is also being given to one family member of each deceased. This is in addition to their entitlement for group insurance, leave encashment, gratuity, GPF, deposit linked insurance and family pension. The injured persons have been given Rs. 3000/- each from non-public fund.

Adverse effects of Sale of Defence Land

2016. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that financial crunch has made the Defence Ministry to decide to sell a considerable portion of its land through commercial transaction;

(b) if so, the amount of money such transactions are likely to fetch to defence fund; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that such transactions would adversely affect defence requirements and bring disrepute to his department ?

THE MINISTER OF DFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Defence has a long standing policy under which lands rendered permanently surplus are disposed of at market rates following a well laid down procedure. Receipts from such sales are used for funding various Defence programmes. No firm assessment has as yet been made of the possible accrual of funds from such sale of permanently surplus lands.